

Chile

According to national estimations based on Census data which include irregular migrants, more than 350 000 immigrants were living in Chile in 2009, twice the number of immigrants registered in 2002. The vast majority of the immigrants in Chile are from other Southern American countries, mainly from the neighbouring countries. Peru is the main country of origin, accounting for 37% of the migrant population, followed by Argentina (17%), Bolivia (7%), Ecuador (5%) and Colombia (4%).

Over the past few years, Peru has replaced Argentina as the main origin group. Between 2002 and 2009, the number of immigrants from Peru in Chile more than tripled, from 38 000 to 131 000.

Regulated immigration flows have been declining in recent years. In 2009, a little over 57 000 residence permits were granted, 17% less than in 2008 and 28% less than in 2007. The largest source country remains Peru (31%), followed by Argentina (17%) and other Latin American countries (in total 19%). The only sizeable groups from other regions were immigrants from Spain and the United States, each accounting for about 3% of the flows.

Half of the residence permits issued in 2009 were for labour migrants and were again mainly granted to immigrants from neighbouring countries. The main sectors of employment for these labour migrants are domestic services, trade and health and social work. Peruvian migrants, especially women, are heavily concentrated in domestic services; almost three out of four women from Peru work in this sector. In contrast, trade is the principal sector of employment of immigrants from Bolivia (24%) and Argentina (22%). Ecuadorians mainly work in health and social work (33%).

The numbers of asylum seekers in Chile is low compared with other OECD countries and has further declined in 2009, from about 870 applications in 2008 to 560 in 2009. The vast majority of asylum seekers are from Colombia. In 2010, Chile's Senate adopted a new Law for the Protection of Refugees, which establishes the legal framework for the protection of refugees and incorporates the country's obligations under the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol of the *United Nations relating to the Status of Refugees*.

Irregular inflows have been a significant feature of immigration in Chile, although this seems less pronounced than in other Latin American countries. According to national estimates, about 18 000 immigrants (5% of the total) are in an irregular situation, the vast majority from Peru (72%). To address this issue, Chile has advanced several regularisation programmes over the past fifteen years. During the first regularisation, in 1998, 44 000 persons obtained temporary residence permits and 18 000 long-term permits. 30% of the total beneficiaries were from Peru. A second regularisation took place in 2007/2008. More than 44 000 persons applied with the vast majority of applicants having been accepted. Among the applicants, 32 000 were from Peru, 6 000 from Bolivia and 1 800 from Ecuador.

In 2006, in line with the practices in other OECD countries, Chile extended access to education to all children of immigrants, regardless of the immigration status of their parents. In the recent years, Chile also undertook a modernisation of its borders, in response to the challenges imposed by the new integration agreements in South America (MERCOSUR) and the human trafficking within the region. Through this process, the Chilean government aims to update the technology and integrate systems of information to make crossing both quicker and more secure.

In spite of the increase in the stock of immigrants over the past years, Chile is still a country with more expatriates abroad than immigrants in the country. About 860 000 Chileans were living outside the country in 2004, the latest year for which figures are available. This was almost four times the number of immigrants reported in that year as living in Chile. Emigration from Chile peaked during the military dictatorship of the 1970s. Overall, 50% of Chilean emigrants settled in Argentina. Other important destinations, especially for the migrants of the 1970s, were Australia, Canada and Sweden.

For further information:

www.extranjeria.gov.cl/

www.minrel.gov.cl

www.interior.gov.cl


www.eclac.org/migracion/imila/

Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

CHILE

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)
					2000-04	2005-09	2009
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Inflows	..	2.3	4.1	3.4	..	3.5	57.1
Outflows
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners		
Permit based statistics (standardised)	2008	2009	2008	2009	2003-2008 annual average		
Work	2009		
Family (incl. accompanying family)	Peru		
Humanitarian	Colombia		
Free movements	Argentina		
Others	Bolivia		
Total	Ecuador		
Temporary migration	2005	2008	2009	Average	United States		
<i>Thousands</i>							
International students	China		
Trainees	Brazil		
Working holiday makers	Spain		
Seasonal workers	Uruguay		
Intra-company transfers			
Other temporary workers			
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
	0.0	0.0	0.1	..	0.0
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>							
Total
Natural increase
Net migration
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>							
Foreign-born population	..	1.5	1.9	2.1	..	1.8	352
Foreign population
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>							
	812
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>							
Native-born men	
Foreign-born men	
Native-born women	
Foreign-born women	
<i>Unemployment rate</i>							
Native-born men	
Foreign-born men	
Native-born women	
Foreign-born women	
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level
<i>Annual growth in %</i>							
Real GDP	4.5	5.6	3.7	-1.7	4.0	3.3	
GDP/capita (level in USD)	3.1	4.4	2.6	-2.6	2.8	2.3	11 581
Employment (level in thousands)
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>							
Unemployment	9.7	9.2	7.8	10.8	9.8	8.6	

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

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